## **Pre-Visit Activity:**

## Gotta Have a Habitat

Objective: Using this *Project Wild* activity students will identify the seven basic components

of survival and habitat: sunlight, air, shelter, food, water, space and the proper arrangement of these things. They will understand that these components are

needed and shared by all living organisms.

**Procedures**: Have the students answer the following questions:

The temperatures I enjoy most are:



My favorite activities are:

1			
2.			
<u> </u>			

My favorite foods are (be very specific):

1		
2		



I like the following areas best (check your favoirite area).

city	lake
country	river
woods	ocean
desert	prairie
mountains	

Now have the students think about where they presently live and decide whether they live in an area that matches their temperature preference. Have them ask other questions, such as: Can I do my favorite activities where I live? If not, can I move? Is your favorite food available in the place where you live? How do you obtain it?

Divide the students into groups according to the places where they like to live. Discuss which items are essential to survival. Make a list of those things - being sure to include food, water, shelter, space, sunlight, and air. Discuss the idea that when food, water, shelter, and space are available in the proper arrangement they are called a habitat. Ask the students if they could live in a home where the bathroom was four miles north, the kitchen was twelve miles west and the bedroom was nine miles east. For what animal might that habitat be appropriate? This can lead to a discussion on how humans differ from wild animals in their habitat needs and how they differ in their ability to **change** their habitat. You can ask them to evaluate such things as shelter needs, clothing needs, food choices, and population controls.

**Extension**:

Have the students draw a picture of their home including pictures of where they find food, water, and shelter. Show them pictures of various living organisms (bison, bird, bat, fish...). A sample of graphics is below. Ask the students to draw a picture of where one of these organisms live. What special adaptations do they have to live in their habitat? What are the similarities and differences between the students' needs and the needs of the selected organism? Point out that air, food, water, sunlight, shelter, and space are needed by all.

